

## ANTI-MONOPOLISTS

The war against trusts, which opened so vigorously at the commencement of the fifth congress, has been apparently declared off, so far as this congress is concerned," remarked a western congressman at Christmas eve to a party of friends who were enjoying an after-dinner cigar in a Washington reading room. "It is a singular fact," he continued, "that nearly every man in the present congress who stood up for the rights of the people against monopolies, trusts, railroad influences, corrupt syndicates and combinations has been struck down in the house of his

friends, while the men who stood by corporate interests have, in almost every instance been re-elected." This is a sad commentary upon the gratitude of the people, but it is the truth. How

can public men be expected to sacrifice themselves if the very persons for whom the sacrifice is made do not even stand by them. He said: "The example of leaders Rayner, of Maryland, is a notable one. The latter championed the cause of the people, introduced the first bill that was presented in congress against trusts, fought the monopoly of the Reading Railroad company and the Western Union Telegraph company, and was recognized in the house as the unflinching opponent of the moneyed rings that are depressing upon the people. His district finds a republican here, his class finds a republican here."

Thomas Wilson, one of the ablest members in congress, and Judge John L. Macdonald, of the same state, were recognized anti-monopolists, have both been defeated. In Michigan, E. Tarney and Spencer O. Fisher, all of their outspoken opponents of western railroad rights, have been laid on the shelf. In Iowa, General Weaver and Robert A. Anderson, who have fought monopoly at every step in congress, have shared the same fate. The roads made an open fight against them and succeeded in accomplishing their object. In New Hampshire, Percival

McKinney was beaten by the same influence. In Missouri John J. O'Neill and Martin Clardy were defeated in strong democratic districts. In Connecticut, Robert Vance was the victim of large manufacturing monopolies in

his district. In Massachusetts, John E. Russell, who so ably fought tariff monopoly, does not come back. In California, Thomas L. Thompson was beaten by the wine and fruit trusts of California, and in Wisconsin, Henry Smith, who defended the bankrupt

Smith, who defended the homesteaders' bill against the Pacific railroad rings, has been beaten; and so on pretty well throughout the list. This," said he, "is not a very edifying spectacle, but it is safe to say that those men, judging from the caliber and determination that has distinguished them in present congress, will not permit a tem-

porary reverse to discourage them in the great and laudable work they have undertaken, but on the contrary, they will probably be heard of again in the very near future. Monopoly and corruption have secured a momentary triumph, in most cases electing men unknown as their candidates, and making a still more violent and senseless

ing a still' non-against the representatives of the people, but the time will come when the people will wake up to the situation."

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